

KB3EDF

BPL poses a significant threat to the Amateur Radio Service and to every other radio service that uses frequencies between 2 and 80 MHz. Amateur Radio is vital to our nation's Homeland Security. Hams provide vital communications during and after disasters, be they hurricanes, wildfires, floods, earthquakes, tornados or terrorism. When the normal methods of communications are down or unusable, hams provide the necessary communication to prevent loss of life. Even though most of this communication is on VHF, there is still emergency communication on HF. Often during a disaster, the FCC designates frequencies for emergency use on 40m and 75m for the duration of the disaster. The FCC also authorized use of five channels on the new 60m band by Amateurs for emergency use to commence on 07/03/2003. BPL would render the HF spectrum unusable for communication. In addition to the Amateur Radio Service, there are numerous other users of HF spectrum that would be adversely affected; the most important of which is the US Military. Other services include the Citizens Band service and shortwave broadcast. The bottom line is that the FCC must provide protection for licensed users of this spectrum (i.e. hams) from unlicensed Part 15 users (i.e. BPL).